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JUL 27 2007

Serial No. 10/781,820
Docket No. H64-163097/TMN (NGB.365)

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REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-10, 12-17 and 19-24 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 4, 6, 11, and 18 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, new claims 21-24 are added, and claims 1, 5, 8, 10, and 12-15 are amended. Entry of the Amendment is proper because it narrows the issues for appeal, does not require further search by the Examiner, and places the application in condition for allowance.

An Excess Claims Fee Letter and Fee are attached.

It is noted that the claim amendments are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicants specifically state that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

The Examiner objects to claim 11. Claim 11 is canceled, thus mooted the objection. Claim 10 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 11, and to clearly distinguish the "rotating shaft" and the "rotatable shaft" in accord with the Examiner's suggestion.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 4, 8, 11-14 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. All claims herein are either amended to either recite indicated allowable subject matter, or to depend from a claim which recites indicated allowable subject matter. Claims 1 and 5 are amended to recite the allowable subject matter of canceled claim 4. Claim 15 is amended to recite the allowable subject matter of canceled claim 18. Allowable claim 8 is rewritten to be in independent form, including all features and limitations of claim 1 from which it previously depended. Claim 10 is rewritten to be in independent form, including all features and limitations of claim 1 from which it previously depended, and to recite the allowable subject matter of canceled claim 11. Claims 12-14 are amended to depend from allowable claim 10. New claims 21-24 recite subject examined in claims 2, 3, 7, and 9, and depend

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from allowable claim 8. Thus, all of the claims pending in the present application include allowable subject matter and are now in condition for allowance.

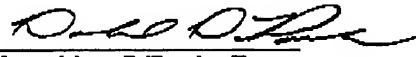
In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-3, 5, 7-10, 12-17 and 19-24, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. Applicants earnestly solicit prompt allowance of all pending claims, and respectfully request the Examiner to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Date: 27 July 2007

Respectfully Submitted,


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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that I am filing this Amendment by facsimile with the United States Patent and Trademark Office to Examiner Ryan D. Walsh, Group Art Unit 2852, at fax number (571) 273-8300 this 27th day of July, 2007.



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